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STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT: AUGUST 1991

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Week of October 21, 1991

STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA EMPLOYMENT
AND UNEMPLOYMENT: AUGUST 1991

WASHINGTON -- Unemployment rates were higher in August than a year earlier in 42 states and the District of Columbia, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Nonfarm payroll employment declined in 21 states and the District of Columbia. Over this same period, the national unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, rose 1.1 percentage points, from 5.4 to 6.5 percent, and payroll employment declined by 1.2 million.

Because the data for individual states and areas are not seasonally adjusted, comparisons in this release are limited to changes from the same month a year earlier. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present a misleading picture of underlying economic trends.

Unemployment

Twenty-six states reported over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rates. The largest increase took place in Kentucky (2.5 percentage points), followed by Massachusetts and New York (both 2.4 points). No state had an unemployment rate decrease of as much as 1 percentage point.

Six states had August 1991 unemployment rates of 8 percent or above, compared with only two states a year earlier. West Virginia, at 10.5 percent, had the highest unemployment rate, followed by Massachusetts (8.8 percent) and Michigan and Mississippi (both 8.7 percent). Eleven states had jobless rates of 5 percent or below in August 1991, down from 25 states a year earlier. Hawaii (2.5 percent) and Nebraska (2.6 percent) continued to have the lowest jobless rates in the nation, as they have since July 1989.

Of the 271 metropolitan areas for which August 1991 data are available, 155 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rates, while only eight areas had decreases as large as 1 percentage point. A total of 51 areas reported August 1991 rates of 8 percent or higher, while 79 had rates of 5 percent or below. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Tex., had the highest jobless rate (15.2 percent), followed by Lakeland-Winter Haven, Fla. (12.9 percent) and Fall River, Mass. (12.5 percent). The lowest rates were in Iowa City, Iowa (1.6 percent), Honolulu, Hawaii (2.1 percent), and Lincoln, Neb. (2.4 percent).

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Employment

Nonfarm payroll employment fell in 21 states and the District of Columbia between August of 1990 and 1991. New England states continued to report the largest percentage declines with five of the six having decreases exceeding 3 percent. Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York combined had an aggregate loss of over 500,000 jobs between August of 1990 and 1991. Of the 29 states with over-the-year job increases, only 11 states recorded gains over 1 percent. Five states had gains of 2 percent or more, all west of the Mississippi River. Nebraska reported the largest growth rate (5.4 percent), followed by Utah (3.6 percent), Arkansas and South Dakota (both 3.0 percent), and Idaho (2.6 percent).

Employment declines in the goods-producing sector were widespread, as more than four-fifths of the states reported over-the-year job losses in manufacturing and two-thirds had decreases in construction. Job gains in the service-producing sector were concentrated in the services industry, where 7 out of every 8 states reported over-the-year job growth, and three-fifths reported employment increases in government. Job losses in the service-producing sector were concentrated in trade and finance, insurance, and real estate.

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Table 3. Unemployment rates by state and selected metropolitan areas
(Percent)

State and area	July 1990	July 1991	August 1990	August 1991p
Alabama	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.4
Birmingham	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.1
Huntsville	4.6	5.2	4.9	5.4
Mobile	7.1	7.4	7.8	7.8
Montgomery	6.4	6.2	7.1	6.6
Tuscaloosa	4.8	5.8	5.3	6.0
Alaska	5.1	6.7	5.4	6.7
Arizona	6.0	5.5	5.8	5.8
Phoenix	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.9
Tucson	4.4	3.6	4.2	3.8
Arkansas	7.2	7.9	6.4	7.3
Fayetteville-Springdale	4.0	4.3	3.2	4.1
Fort Smith[1]	6.0	7.3	5.8	7.2
Little Rock-North Little Rock	6.7	7.1	5.8	6.6
Pine Bluff	9.3	11.5	8.2	10.7
California[2]	5.7	8.0	5.4	7.2
Anaheim-Santa Ana	3.6	5.4	3.3	4.7
Bakersfield	9.6	11.8	8.5	10.3
Fresno	9.2	11.0	7.4	8.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach[2]	5.4	8.6	6.6	8.5
Modesto	10.8	14.7	7.8	10.4
Oakland	4.7	6.2	4.0	5.4
Oxnard-Ventura	6.6	7.5	5.8	7.6
Riverside-San Bernardino	7.6	10.0	6.7	9.1
Sacramento	4.9	7.0	4.0	5.6
Salinas-Seaside-Monterey	7.0	8.1	5.9	6.8
San Diego	5.0	7.0	4.3	6.1
San Francisco	3.8	5.1	3.2	4.5
San Jose	4.4	6.2	3.7	5.3
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc	4.5	5.8	3.9	5.3
Santa Rosa-Petaluma	4.7	6.1	3.9	5.4
Stockton	9.3	12.1	7.1	9.2
Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa	5.7	7.0	4.7	6.3
Colorado	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.1
Boulder-Longmont	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.1
Denver	4.8	4.3	4.5	3.9
Connecticut	5.2	6.8	5.1	6.9
Bridgeport-Milford	6.4	7.8	6.2	7.8
Hartford	4.6	6.3	4.6	6.6
New Britain	6.3	9.0	6.1	9.2
New Haven-Meriden	5.0	6.6	5.0	6.6
Stamford	3.4	4.4	3.5	4.6
Waterbury	8.0	10.4	7.5	10.2
Delaware	5.5	6.4	5.2	6.7
Wilmington[1]	6.0	6.5	5.2	7.1
District of Columbia	7.2	7.3	6.7	7.2
Washington[1]	3.6	4.4	3.6	4.3
Florida[2]	6.1	8.1	6.8	8.3
Daytona Beach	5.2	7.3	5.8	7.6
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach	5.6	8.1	6.3	8.4
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	4.6	6.8	5.2	7.0
Gainesville	3.4	4.8	3.8	4.9
Jacksonville	5.5	7.2	5.9	7.3
Lakeland-Winter Haven	11.5	12.4	12.7	12.9
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay	5.4	7.4	6.1	7.8
Miami-Hialeah	6.8	9.4	7.7	9.5
Orlando	5.3	7.1	6.0	7.0
Pensacola	5.6	6.2	6.4	6.7
Sarasota	4.2	5.6	4.6	5.9
Tallahassee	4.0	4.8	4.8	5.0
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	5.3	6.8	5.6	7.0
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach	7.5	10.1	8.2	10.7
Georgia	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.2
Albany	6.8	6.0	6.9	6.1
Athens	5.1	4.4	4.7	3.9
Atlanta	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.1
Augusta[1]	4.6	5.1	4.4	4.8
Columbus[1]	6.3	5.7	6.1	5.6
Macon-Warner Robins	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6
Savannah	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.9
Hawaii	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.5
Honolulu	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.1
Idaho	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.0
Boise City	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.3
Illinois[2]	6.3	6.5	6.3	7.2
Aurora-Elgin	5.7	7.2	5.9	7.0
Bloomington-Normal	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.3
Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.4
Chicago	6.1	6.2	6.3	7.0
Davenport-Rock Island-Moline[1]	5.7	5.8	6.0	7.9
Decatur	7.1	11.0	7.1	9.1
Joliet	6.6	6.9	6.8	7.3
Kankakee	7.0	7.9	7.1	8.7
Lake County	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.5
Peoria	6.0	6.2	6.1	7.0
Rockford	8.3	6.9	6.0	11.1
Springfield	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.8
Indiana	5.0	5.7	6.2	5.4
Anderson	6.3	7.7	8.1	6.2
Bloomington	3.1	3.3	4.1	6.5
Elkhart-Goshen	4.6	5.0	6.5	5.5
Evansville[1]	4.5	5.9	5.9	5.8
Fort Wayne	4.5	5.0	6.1	4.8
Gary-Hammond	5.1	6.6	6.8	5.9
Indianapolis	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.6
Kokomo	5.6	7.6	9.6	6.4
Lafayette-West Lafayette	2.8	2.9	3.8	2.8
Muncie	4.7	5.8	6.8	4.9
South Bend-Mishawaka	5.6	5.9	6.4	5.2
Terre Haute	4.3	5.3	5.2	5.0
Iowa	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.6
Cedar Rapids	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0
Des Moines	3.1	3.4	3.1	4.1
Dubuque	4.7	4.4	7.8	9.1
Iowa City	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.6
Sioux City[1]	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.4
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.5
Kansas	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.8
Lawrence	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6
Topeka	4.9	4.8	5.4	6.2
Wichita	4.5	5.2	4.7	5.0
Kentucky	5.2	7.4	5.2	7.7
Lexington-Fayette	3.2	4.9	3.4	4.9
Louisville[1]	4.2	5.6	4.5	6.1
Owensboro	5.0	7.0	5.7	7.9
Louisiana	6.4	7.9	6.2	7.7
Alexandria	6.8	7.7	6.7	8.0
Baton Rouge	5.7	7.5	5.5	6.9
Houma-Thibodaux	4.9	7.3	5.1	7.1
Lafayette	4.5	5.9	4.3	6.0
Lake Charles	6.7	9.4	6.6	9.3
Monroe	6.0	6.9	5.7	7.0
New Orleans	6.0	6.8	5.9	6.8
Shreveport	6.2	7.2	6.2	7.2
Maine	4.7	7.2	4.4	6.1
Lewiston-Auburn	7.6	11.2	6.6	9.4
Portland	3.3	5.2	3.5	4.7
Maryland	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.5
Baltimore	5.5	6.2	5.4	6.2
Massachusetts[2]	6.5	9.4	6.4	8.8
Boston	5.5	8.2	5.7	7.9
Brockton	8.2	11.7	8.0	11.1
Fall River[1]	12.4	15.7	9.7	12.5
Fitchburg-Leominster	9.8	12.8	9.7	11.9
Lawrence-Haverhill[1]	8.3	10.6	8.3	10.5
Lowell[1]	7.8	10.8	7.7	10.3
New Bedford	10.1	13.3	8.6	11.7
Pittsfield	6.2	9.7	6.1	9.1
Springfield	6.4	9.6	6.3	9.3
Worcester	6.9	10.7	6.9	9.8
Michigan[2]	7.7	8.6	7.4	8.7
Ann Arbor	5.3	5.8	5.5	6.1
Battle Creek	7.7	8.3	7.3	8.0
Benton Harbor	7.1	8.4	7.3	8.7
Detroit	8.2	8.9	7.7	8.8
Flint	8.6	10.7	9.2	12.2
Grand Rapids	7.0	6.9	6.0	7.5
Jackson	7.8	8.9	7.7	9.6
Kalamazoo	5.6	5.5	4.9	6.1
Lansing-East Lansing	6.0	8.4	5.7	7.7
Muskegon	9.7	11.1	9.2	12.0
Saginaw-Bay City-Midland	6.9	8.2	6.9	8.0
Minnesota	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.8
Duluth[1]	5.5	5.9	5.1	5.9
Minneapolis-St. Paul[1]	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.6
Rochester	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.9
St. Cloud	5.6	4.8	5.3	5.4
Mississippi	8.0	9.5	8.0	8.7
Jackson	5.6	7.0	5.9	6.7
Missouri	6.0	6.6	5.8	6.8
Kansas City[1]	4.9	5.6	5.3	6.0
St. Louis LMA[1]	6.2	6.7	6.3	7.2
Springfield	4.5	5.0	4.3	5.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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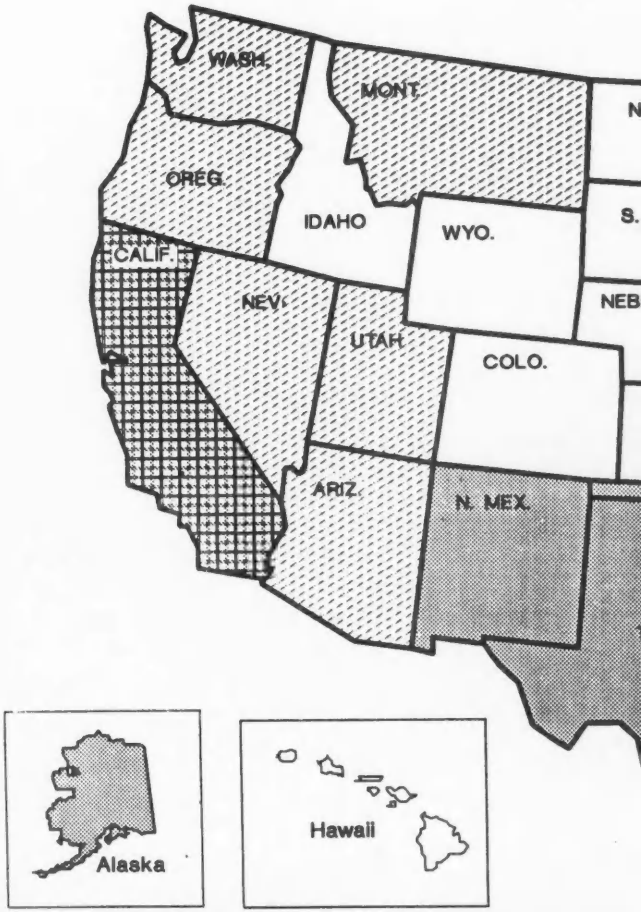
Table 3. Unemployment rates by state and selected metropolitan areas-Continued
(Percent)

State and area	July 1990	July 1991	August 1990	August 1991p
Montana	5.0	6.1	4.6	5.8
Nebraska	2.3	2.8	2.2	2.6
Lincoln	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4
Omaha[1]	2.7	3.2	2.7	3.1
Nevada	4.8	5.6	4.5	5.1
Las Vegas	5.0	6.2	4.8	5.6
Reno	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.1
New Hampshire	6.0	6.9	5.6	7.1
Manchester	6.1	7.0	5.9	7.3
Nashua	7.1	7.6	6.5	8.2
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester	4.5	5.6	4.7	4.8
New Jersey[2]	5.1	6.5	4.6	6.3
Atlantic City	4.7	6.8	4.4	6.6
Bergen-Passaic	4.6	6.2	4.1	6.0
Jersey City	7.6	9.1	6.6	8.7
Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon	4.2	5.2	3.8	5.3
Monmouth-Ocean	4.7	6.0	4.3	5.8
Newark	5.8	6.8	5.1	6.7
Trenton	4.4	5.6	4.2	5.5
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton	7.7	10.0	6.3	9.5
New Mexico	6.5	7.3	6.2	6.8
Albuquerque	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.3
Las Cruces	7.3	8.3	6.7	7.3
Santa Fe	3.4	3.9	3.1	3.4
New York[2]	5.2	6.9	4.8	7.2
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	3.3	5.3	3.3	5.3
Binghamton	3.7	5.6	3.6	5.6
Buffalo	4.7	6.3	4.6	6.4
Elmira	3.8	5.6	3.7	5.9
Glens Falls	4.2	6.7	4.3	6.5
Nassau-Suffolk	4.1	6.1	4.1	6.4
New York	6.5	8.1	5.8	8.6
New York City[2]	7.2	8.8	6.2	9.3
Orange County	4.3	6.4	4.5	6.8
Poughkeepsie	2.9	5.0	3.0	4.9
Rochester	3.6	4.6	3.4	4.6
Syracuse	3.5	5.8	3.5	5.7
Utica-Rome	3.9	6.2	3.6	6.2
North Carolina[2]	4.5	6.0	3.5	5.5
Asheville	3.3	4.5	2.6	5.1
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill[1]	3.9	5.3	3.0	5.1
Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point	4.3	5.4	3.2	5.0
Raleigh-Durham	2.8	3.6	2.2	3.6
North Dakota	4.0	3.9	3.4	4.3
Bismarck	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.9
Fargo-Moorhead[1]	2.7	2.9	2.3	2.7
Grand Forks	4.5	3.3	3.6	4.2
Ohio[2]	5.1	6.3	4.7	6.0
Akron	4.8	5.8	4.2	5.9
Canton	5.4	7.2	5.0	6.8
Cincinnati[1]	4.0	5.1	3.8	5.3
Cleveland	4.3	5.3	4.1	5.4
Columbus	4.1	4.7	3.7	4.6
Dayton-Springfield	4.6	5.6	4.6	5.6
Toledo	5.9	9.7	5.5	7.1
Youngstown-Warren	7.7	6.8	5.7	6.7
Oklahoma	4.7	6.2	5.2	6.2
Enid	3.7	4.7	3.6	4.6
Lawton	4.5	6.0	4.7	6.0
Oklahoma City	4.3	5.4	5.8	5.5
Tulsa	4.5	5.9	4.6	6.1
Oregon	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.6
Eugene-Springfield	5.6	6.0	5.4	6.0
Medford	7.9	7.9	6.5	7.6
Portland	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.8
Salem	5.1	5.2	4.5	5.0
Pennsylvania[2]	5.2	7.0	4.3	6.5
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton[1]	5.5	7.3	4.6	6.4
Altoona	7.5	8.8	5.3	7.5
Beaver County	7.4	10.1	5.9	9.7
Erie	5.0	6.8	4.1	6.5
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle	4.1	5.5	3.7	5.0
Johnstown	7.5	9.0	5.8	8.3
Lancaster	4.1	5.0	3.2	4.8
Philadelphia[1]	4.7	6.7	4.0	6.4
Pittsburgh	4.4	5.9	3.7	5.6
Reading	5.1	6.9	4.3	5.9
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre	7.0	9.0	5.4	7.9
Sharon	5.4	7.3	3.8	7.1
State College	5.4	6.1	4.5	5.6
Williamsport	5.6	7.8	6.2	7.0
York	4.7	6.2	4.4	5.5
Rhode Island	7.2	8.3	6.4	8.5
Pawtucket-Woonsocket-Attleboro[1]	8.4	9.8	7.6	9.7
Providence	6.9	8.3	6.2	8.5
South Carolina	5.0	5.9	4.4	5.9
Charleston	3.4	4.5	3.1	4.7
Columbia	3.6	4.2	3.3	4.4
Greenville-Spartanburg	4.2	4.9	3.8	4.9
South Dakota	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.7
Rapid City	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.8
Sioux Falls	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.7
Tennessee	5.1	6.7	4.9	6.2
Chattanooga[1]	4.6	5.9	4.3	5.7
Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol[1]	4.5	5.9	4.0	5.2
Knoxville	4.3	5.6	4.3	5.4
Memphis[1]	4.3	5.7	4.5	5.5
Nashville	3.7	4.9	3.9	4.8
Texas[2]	6.3	6.8	5.9	6.3
Abilene	8.0	6.0	6.4	5.5
Amarillo	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.8
Austin	4.9	5.1	4.5	4.8
Beaumont-Port Arthur	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.6
Brazoria	5.8	6.4	5.3	5.5
Brownsville-Harlingen	11.8	13.2	11.3	11.9
Bryan-College Station	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.4
Corpus Christi	6.9	8.2	6.5	7.6
Dallas	5.4	6.2	5.2	5.8
El Paso	10.8	10.8	10.4	10.1
Fort Worth-Arlington	5.4	7.0	4.9	6.5
Galveston-Texas City	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8
Houston	5.5	6.0	5.2	5.6
Killeen-Temple	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.5
Laredo	9.6	9.0	8.7	7.9
Longview-Marshall	7.2	8.2	6.7	7.7
Lubbock	5.5	6.4	5.2	5.7
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	16.3	16.0	16.0	15.2
Midland	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.6
Odessa	6.5	6.9	5.8	6.7
San Angelo	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.2
San Antonio	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.3
Sherman-Denison	5.3	6.5	5.1	6.2
Texarkana[1]	6.7	7.8	5.8	7.8
Tyler	6.4	6.7	6.3	6.2
Victoria	5.3	5.6	5.0	4.9
Waco	6.4	7.3	6.1	6.5
Wichita Falls	6.4	6.9	6.1	6.6
Utah	4.1	5.2	4.0	5.2
Provo-Orem	3.5	4.7	3.3	4.6
Salt Lake City-Ogden	4.0	5.2	4.0	5.2
Vermont	4.6	6.5	4.6	5.2
Burlington	3.2	4.7	3.3	4.0
Virginia	4.2	6.0	4.2	5.3
Charlottesville	2.4	4.1	2.7	4.2
Danville	7.5	10.3	7.6	8.3
Lynchburg	4.5	6.5	4.6	5.6
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News	4.8	6.2	4.9	5.7
Richmond-Petersburg	3.7	5.7	4.0	5.2
Roanoke	3.4	5.2	3.5	4.9
Washington	4.4	5.9	4.2	5.4
Seattle	3.3	4.7	3.1	4.2
West Virginia	7.5	10.1	9.0	10.5
Charleston	5.3	7.5	6.5	8.0
Huntington-Ashland[1]	6.3	8.8	6.7	9.4
Parkersburg-Marietta[1]	6.2	7.5	8.8	7.3
Wheeling[1]	5.1	6.3	5.0	6.4
Wisconsin	3.8	4.7	3.8	4.5
Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah	3.7	3.8	3.6	4.0
Eau Claire	3.7	4.4	3.9	4.5
Green Bay	3.2	3.9	3.5	3.7
Janesville-Beloit	6.3	8.5	4.5	8.7
Kenosha	6.7	7.4	5.3	4.8
La Crosse	3.4	4.1	3.1	3.7
Madison	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.7
Milwaukee	3.6	4.3	3.8	4.4
Racine	4.1	5.7	4.1	5.5
Sheboygan	4.9	5.1	3.9	4.5
Wausau	3.5	5.9	3.7	5.0
Wyoming	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.8
Casper	4.5	4.6	5.2	4.8

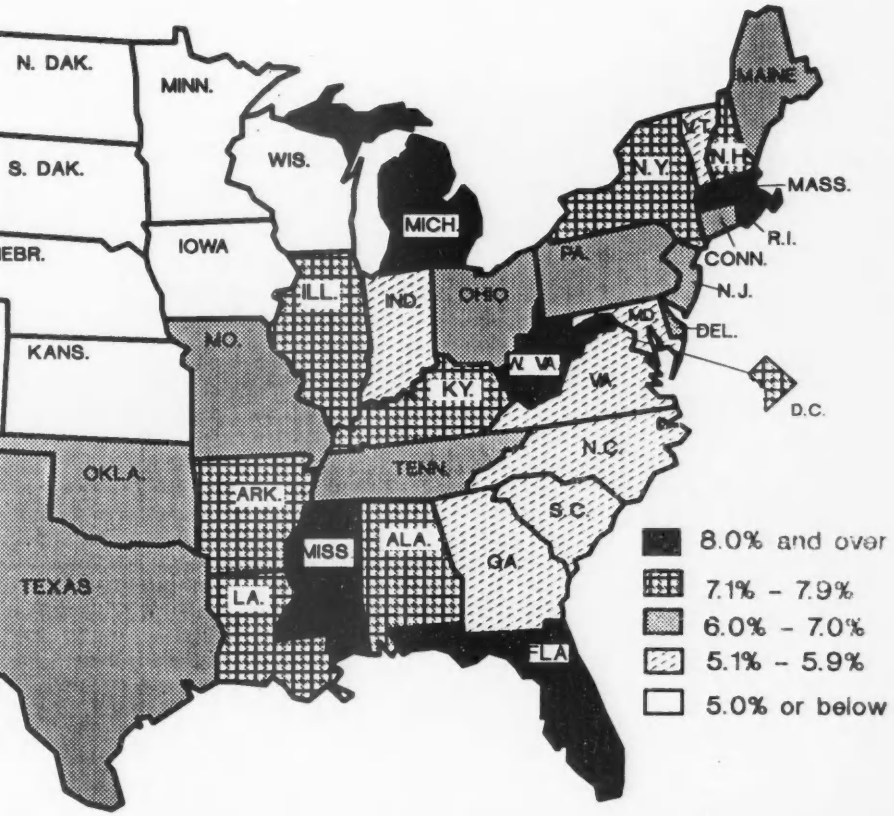
[1] Includes interstate portion of area located in adjacent state.
[2] Data are obtained directly from the Current Population Survey.
p = preliminary.
NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. Estimates for 1990 have been benchmarked to 1990 Current Population Survey annual averages and may differ from data published earlier. Except in the 11 states and 2 areas available directly from the CPS, estimates for 1991 are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark information becomes available. See the Technical Note.

Unemployment rate
(U.S. aver



tes by state, August 1991

verage = 6.5 percent)



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Week of OCTOBER 21, 1991

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Following a boom during the early postwar period, U.S. productivity growth declined substantially during the 1970's and 1980's, with the sharpest drop beginning in 1965, according to "Workforce 2000," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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Over the past several years, increases in output per hour has averaged a dismal 0.7 percent per year, according to "Workforce 2000," U.S. Labor Department publication. This poor performance was largely responsible for the slow growth of wages and family income that the nation has recently experienced and the stubborn persistence of poverty during the 1980's.

# # #

There are several theories to explain the slow growth of U.S. productivity during the past several years. They include declines in the rate of capital investment, increases in the number of young, inexperienced workers during the 1970's, and the slowdown in the shift of workers from agriculture to industry, according to "Workforce 2000," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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